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In re Patent Application of:
FLICK
Serial No. 10/043,077
Confirmation No. 6614
Filed: JANUARY 9, 2002

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the vehicle control system comprising:

at least one uniquely coded transmitter to be carried by a user;

a receiver at the vehicle for receiving signals from said at least one uniquely coded transmitter; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~, communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via the vehicle data communications bus, and cooperating with said receiver and the vehicle data communications bus for

learning the at least one uniquely coded transmitter to permit control of a vehicle function by the user,

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ via said data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new uniquely coded transmitter has been learned, and

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causing the at least one original
equipment icon vehicle alarm indicator to generate
an indication of a number of learned uniquely coded
transmitters.

19. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system
according to Claim 18 wherein the at least one original
equipment icon vehicle alarm indicator comprises at least one
of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech
message generator, and an audible signal generator.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A vehicle control system according
to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a vehicle
sensor; and wherein said controller communicates with the
vehicle sensor via the vehicle data communications bus.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A vehicle control system according
to Claim 18 wherein the vehicle further comprises a
controllable vehicle device; and wherein said controller
communicates with the controllable vehicle device via the
vehicle data communications bus.

Claims 24-29. (Canceled).

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30. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the vehicle control system comprising:

a biometric characteristic sensor for sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user; and

a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm indicator and cooperating with said biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm indicator via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

31. (Canceled).

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32. (Currently amended) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein the at least one original equipment icon ~~vehicle alarm indicator~~ comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

Claims 33-38 (Canceled).

39. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

40. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication when the learning mode has last been entered.

41. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 39 wherein said controller causes an indication for progressively indicating a passage of time since the learning mode has last been entered.

42. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

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43. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

44. (Previously presented) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.

45. (Original) A vehicle control system according to Claim 30 wherein said biometric sensor comprises at least one of a fingerprint sensor, a voice pattern sensor, a facial pattern sensor, a skin pattern sensor, a hand pattern sensor, a venous pattern sensor and a retinal pattern sensor.

Claims 46-56 (Canceled).

57. (Currently amended) A vehicle control method for a vehicle comprising a vehicle data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, a vehicle alarm indicator connected thereto, and an instrument panel carrying the vehicle alarm indicator, the vehicle alarm indicator comprising at least one original equipment icon, the method comprising:

sensing a unique biometric characteristic of a user from a biometric characteristic sensor; and

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using a controller at the vehicle spaced apart from the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm-indicator and cooperating with the biometric characteristic sensor and the vehicle data communications bus for

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm indicator via the data communications bus,

learning the unique biometric characteristic to permit control of a vehicle function by the user, and

communicating with the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm-indicator via the vehicle data communications bus to cause an indication of whether at least one new unique biometric characteristic has been learned.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 57 wherein the at least one original equipment icon vehicle alarm-indicator comprises at least one of a light, a visual display, a vibration transducer, a speech message generator, and an audible signal generator.

Claims 60-63 (Canceled).

64. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller is switchable to a learning

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mode to permit learning of a new unique biometric characteristic; and wherein said controller causes an indication that the learning mode has been entered.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a number of learned unique biometric characteristics.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 57 wherein said controller causes an indication of a change in a learned unique biometric characteristic.